

**REMARKS**

The Applicants request entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment, favorable reconsideration of this case, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

**Status of the Claims**

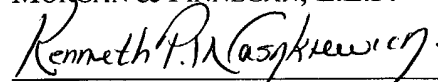
Upon entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment, the Applicants have rewritten claims 1, 7-11, 14-17, 19-22, and 24-25, and canceled claims 6 and 23. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-22, and 24-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 22 are independent claims.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

**AUTHORIZATION**

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or all required extension of time fees for this paper to Deposit Account Number 09-0441, Order Number ARC9-99-0088.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.



Kenneth P. Waszkiewicz  
Registration Number: 45,724

SENDER'S ADDRESS:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154-0053

202-857-7887 – phone  
202-857-7929 – fax

Dated: March 25, 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY